

AN
ADDRESS

TO THE

SEAMEN

IN THE

BRITISH NAVY.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR W. RICHARDSON, AT THE

ROYAL EXCHANGE.

JULY, 1797.



A N
A D D R E S S
TO THE
S E A M E N, &c.

EVERY Lover of his Country has seen, with concern and regret, that spirit of **MUTINY** which has lately discovered itself in a part of the **BRITISH NAVY**. — The manner and the timing of it have been disgraceful to the promoters of it. It has, however, been fortunately quelled by the **SEAMEN** returning, of themselves, to their Duty, from a sense of their own improper conduct. Wishing to cast a Veil over the past, and to guard against a return of Evils, I beg to address a few Hints to **BRITISH SEAMEN**, who have a Character attached to them, which they should be ever proud to merit, — that of being respected at home, and feared abroad.

The COUNTRY no sooner heard the Complaints of the Seamen, than PARLIAMENT redressed their grievances, and immediately voted an *increase to their Pay* to the amount of about £530,000 per Annum to the Public. This was not confined to a particular Fleet, but to the whole Navy. After such an Interposition, and a GENERAL PARDON, the late Disturbances at the NORE could never have originated from the Seamen at large in that Fleet, but from the endeavours of the designing few, who misguided the Seamen by false representations, who kept them ignorant of the decision of the Legislature, and of the acquiescence and approbation of the Country and of the Navy to that decision. No sooner were the Seamen informed of what had been done, and of the detestation that the Country entertained of their disgraceful Conduct, than they broke through the bands that fettered them, returned to their Duty, and delivered up their Leaders to be tried by the Laws of their Country.

I look upon the business at the NORE as a Phenomenon in the NAVAL HISTORY of this Country; and I can only compare it to a sudden Frost, which, for the moment, congealed every power and faculty of action, until followed by as sudden a Thaw. Left there should be still remaining any Ice floating,

floating, I would recommend to SEAMEN, before they again complain,

I. First to look to the NAVY and the MERCHANTS' SERVICE of *other Countries*, and see where Seamen have been so well paid, so well fed, or so well treated, as in this Country.

II. Where they will meet with so many HOSPITALS, PUBLIC and PRIVATE CHARITABLE FUNDS and INSTITUTIONS, for themselves and families, in case of Old Age, Accident, or Death.

III. Whether there are not Thousands of FOREIGN SEAMEN who enter VOLUNTARILY into the BRITISH Service, in Peace and in War, in preference to the Pay and the Service of the Countries to which they belong.

Let SEAMEN then learn to be content, and to enjoy the Blessings they possess. Let them rouse themselves to a true sense of their Situation and Duty, and be sensible that they cannot better serve their Country than to protect it in time of War; and, at the termination of it, that they cannot better promote its Interest, as well as their own, than by the exertions of a Peaceful Industry. — The Nation loves the NAVY; it is a favoured Service; and, if they have Wrongs, their Country will

will hear and redress them with Kindness and with Justice: but it has a Spirit and an Energy to suppress Violence, Tumult, and Injustice.

Let them reflect: where will 50 or 60,000 Seamen, when dismissed from the NAVY, on a Peace, find employment but in the MERCHANTS' SERVICE? — Will Merchants and Ship-Owners confide in Men who have discovered a Mutinous Spirit and a want of Subordination? — Will they not give the preference to those who can, and will, work honestly and industriously for their Livelihood, and who can have a good Character given of them?

Let them also pause and reflect that our COMMERCE is a perpetual Nursery for Seamen; and, if it should be found necessary, the LEGISLATURE might, by Laws and Regulations, hold out Encouragements to good Men, to Apprenticeships, and to Landsmen; or grant greater Privileges to Foreign Seamen, in order to deter and suppress that Spirit of Mutiny and Dissatisfaction, which has discovered itself among the few, who will then be left to pine and repent at their own misconduct, and at the want of countenance and the want of employment.

Many

Many of the Commercial and Manufacturing Towns of GREAT BRITAIN have followed the example of the Merchants and Ship-Owners of LONDON ; and it gave me infinite pleasure to find their Resolutions have been received in the NAVY with so much satisfaction and effect. The thanks of the Country are due to the OFFICERS of the NAVY and the MARINES, and also to the GREAT BODY of the SEAMEN, for their steadiness and attachment to their Country during the late Mutiny. I will not particularize Ships or Men, from the persuasion, that they had rather receive thanks for active meritorious services, than from the comparative demerits of a few Ships or a few misguided Men. I hope the present Trials will be a warning to the few misguided Seamen who had been ignorantly misled.

Rouse, then, ye British Seamen ! go, join the brave ADMIRAL DUNCAN, who, with *Four Sail of the Line*, blocked up the whole DUTCH NAVAL FORCE in their own Ports, while a BRITISH FLEET *ingloriously* blockaded the mouth of the Thames ! Blot from the page of History the record of your shame, or a recollection of the transaction, by a return to your Duty and by your active Exertions. It may be in your power to close a War honourably to yourselves and favourably to your Country.

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Many of the Commercial and Manufacturing TOWNS of GREAT BRITAIN have followed the example of the Merchants and Ship-Owners of LONDON ; and it gave me infinite pleasure to find their Resolutions have been received in the NAVY with so much satisfaction and effect. The thanks of the Country are due to the OFFICERS of the NAVY and the MARINES, and also to the GREAT BODY of the SEAMEN, for their steadiness and attachment to their Country during the late Mutiny. I will not particularize Ships or Men, from the persuasion, that they had rather receive thanks for active meritorious services, than from the comparative demerits of a few Ships or a few misguided Men. I hope the present Trials will be a warning to the few misguided Seamen who had been ignorantly misled.

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Emulated by the examples of Lord Howe on the *Glorious Action* of the *First of June*, 1794, and by Sir John Jervis's *signal and brilliant Victory* on the *14th of February*, 1797, go seek the Enemy off their own Ports, and may the Laurels you gain, secure to us an honourable and a lasting Peace. Remember, however, that the BRITISH NAVY and that BRITISH SEAMEN owe their Fame, Success, and National Character, to Vigor, Union, Discipline, and Subordination; and that, without them, the Navy is like a Ship in a Storm, without Masts or Rudder.

The Seaman's Friend.

London, July 10, 1797.



